

Examiner Interview Summary

Examiner Anderson and Applicant's Attorney conducted a telephonic interview on January 15, 2008. The application of Olson and White references (US Patent Nos. 6,424,784 and 5,838,858, respectively) to rejected claims 1 and 3 in the Office Action bearing a Notification Date of 06/15/2007 was reviewed. Determination of the patentability of claim 1 as amended in Applicant's Response and Amendment filed December 17, 2007 was deferred as Applicant was willing to consider different claim amendments for submission to the Examiner for his consideration. The Examiner suggested that Applicant's Attorney submit a proposed amendment by email. No agreement was reached. (See Appendix I to this Request for Amendment Under Rule 312 for a record of subsequent email exchanges between the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney).

The foregoing is considered to be a complete summary of the substance of the interview.

Email Correspondence

Appendix I is a record of email correspondence between the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the proposed minor amendments under Rule 312 is respectfully requested. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number or email address given below regarding this matter.

Dated: April 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By /Peter J. Rainville/
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Appendix I

Record of Email Communications between Applicant's Attorney and Examiner

From: Peter Rainville
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 6:01 PM
To: Anderson, Guy G.
Subject: Proposed Amendment

Examiner Anderson,

Please consider the following proposed amendment to claim 1 in Patent Application Serial Number 10/573,436, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Accommodating Loops of Optical Fiber":

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accommodating optical fiber, comprising:
a length of optical fiber comprising a rare earth for absorbing pump light provided to the length of optical fiber; and
a body comprising an inwardly facing surface comprising a helical groove for receiving a plurality of loops of [[a]] said length of optical fiber; ~~said body including at least a portion wherein said inwardly facing surface is continuous between two adjacent loops.~~

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

You can call me at the number below for verbal authorization to make an Examiner's amendment to claim 1.

From: Anderson, Guy G.
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 6:18 PM
To: Peter Rainville
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

I have forwarded the proposal to my primary with my comments. If he deems it insufficient, I will set up a conference with the three of us for January 24.

Guy G. Anderson
Patent Examiner, U.S.P.T.O.
AU-2883
571.272.8045

From: Peter Rainville
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 8:40 AM
To: 'Anderson, Guy G.'
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

Examiner Anderson,

Thank-you.

I will be available on the 24th if needed. Hopefully this will not necessary.

Peter Rainville

From: Anderson, Guy G.
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 8:29 AM
To: Peter Rainville
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

This case is now in condition for allowance. Please email me permission to do an examiners amendment or leave a voice mail on my office phone, 571.272.8045. I will be out of the office today.

Guy G. Anderson
Patent Examiner, U.S.P.T.O.
AU-2883
571.272.8045

From: Peter Rainville
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 9:35 AM
To: 'Anderson, Guy G.'
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

Examiner Anderson,

Thank you for the good news. There are some minor formal amendments to some of the dependent claims that should be made for consistency with the proposed claim 1. I will send an email that includes all the amendments and that provides permission for an Examiner's amendment to enter the proposed amendments.

Peter Rainville

From: Anderson, Guy G.
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 8:15 PM
To: Peter Rainville
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

When do you anticipate sending me the additions?

Guy G. Anderson
Patent Examiner, U.S.P.T.O.
AU-2883
571.272.8045

From: Peter Rainville
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 8:05 AM
To: 'Anderson, Guy G.'
Subject: RE: Proposed Amendment

Examiner Anderson,

I will send you the email by the end of today or first thing tomorrow. If you have no objection I would like to add a few dependent claims that will depend from 1. There should be no increase in fees involved and no new matter, of course.

If you do think that this is appropriate, please let me know so that my next email is enough for you to allow the case.

Thanks,

Peter Rainville

From: Peter Rainville
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2008 5:34 PM
To: 'Anderson, Guy G.'
Subject: Amendments for entry by Examiner's amendment 10/573,436

Examiner Anderson,

Please enter the amendments to claims noted below, as well as the new dependent claims, by Examiner's amendment in Patent Application Serial Number 10/573,436, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Accommodating Loops of Optical Fiber".

1. I have not repeated currently pending claims to which there are no proposed amendments. These claims remain in the case.

2. Please note that there is slight change to claim 1 over the claim 1 sent to you earlier - to conform with other claims I have changed "pump light" to "optical energy". There are also some proposed new

dependent claims, which recite subject matter drawn from the specification, including other claims originally filed in the case. No new matter is added.

3. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Peter Rainville

Claim amendments and new claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accommodating optical fiber, comprising:

a length of optical fiber comprising a rare earth for absorbing optical energy provided to the length of optical fiber; and

a body comprising an inwardly facing surface comprising a helical groove for receiving a plurality of loops of [[a]] said length of optical fiber; ~~said body including at least a portion wherein said inwardly facing surface is continuous between two adjacent loops.~~

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of loops ~~surface is adapted such that at least the majority of all of the loops to be received by said surface will be received so as to be~~ are substantially coaxial.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein one or more of said loops of said plurality is circular, comprising said length of optical fiber.

Claim 41. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said optical energy to be absorbed by said rare earth can have a first wavelength and said length of optical fiber can convert said optical energy to optical energy having a second wavelength that is different than said first wavelength and wherein said length of optical fiber is normally multimode at said second wavelength.

Claim 42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said plurality of loops are shaped such that for optical energy having said second wavelength higher order modes are attenuated substantially more than a fundamental mode of said length of optical fiber.

Claim 43. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a light source optically coupled to said length of optical fiber for providing optical energy to said length of optical fiber.

Claim 44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said light source can provide said optical energy for said rare earth to absorb, said optical energy having a first wavelength, and wherein said apparatus comprises a second light source optically coupled to said optical fiber for providing light having a second wavelength that is different than said first wavelength.

Claim 45. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said light source can provide said optical energy for said rare earth to absorb, said optical energy having a first wavelength, and wherein said length of optical fiber can convert said optical energy to optical energy having a second wavelength that is different than said first wavelength, and wherein said apparatus includes at least one optical fiber grating that forms at least part of a laser cavity for light having said second wavelength.

Claim 46. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of loops have substantially the same radius of curvature.